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22. (New) A guide wire comprising:

an elongate core including a distal portion, the core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy;
a coil composed of a second material, the coil surrounding the core and terminating proximal to the distal portion of the core; and
a polymeric material disposed on the distal portion of the core.

23. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil surrounds a portion of the core near a proximal end of the core.

24. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil surrounds a proximal end of the core.

25. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil extends along the core from a portion of the core near a proximal end of the core to proximal of the distal portion of the core.

26. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the second material comprises stainless steel.

27. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the second material comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.

28. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.

29. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the polymeric material comprises a radio-opaque material.

30. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies along the length of the core.

31. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a coating.

32. (New) The guide wire of claim 31 wherein the coating is lubricious.

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33. (New) The guide wire of claim 31 wherein the coating is colored.
34. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.
35. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.
36. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.
37. (New) The guide wire of claim 36 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.
38. (New) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the polymeric material comprises a tip surrounding a distal end of the core.
39. (New) A guide wire comprising:
 - a core including a distal portion;
 - a coil surrounding the core and terminating proximal to the distal portion of the core; and
 - a polymeric material disposed on the distal portion of the core.
40. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil surrounds a portion of the core near a proximal end of the core.
41. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil surrounds a proximal end of the core.
42. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil extends along the length of the core from a portion of the core near a proximal end of the core to proximal of the distal portion of the core.
43. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises stainless steel.

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44. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a precipitation hardenable alloy.
45. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the distal portion of the core is tapered.
46. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the polymeric material comprises a radio-opaque material.
47. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies along the length of the core.
48. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a coating.
49. (New) The guide wire of claim 48 wherein the coating is lubricious.
50. (New) The guide wire of claim 48 wherein the coating is colored.
51. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a rectangular cross-section.
52. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a circular cross-section.
53. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the coil comprises a multifilar wire.
54. (New) The guide wire of claim 53 wherein the multifilar wire is cross-wound.
55. (New) The guide wire of claim 39 wherein the polymeric material comprises a tip surrounding a distal end of the core.